

Meeting:	Standing advisory council for religious education (SACRE)
Meeting date:	Friday 17 November 2017
Title of report:	Updates to the Herefordshire Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education Constitution
Report by:	Democratic Services Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose and summary

To consider and approve the revised SACRE constitution, attached as the appendix with changes highlighted.

Recommendation(s)

That: SACRE consider the suggested amendments to the constitution and approve the revised constitution for implementation from the next meeting on Friday 16 March 2018.

Alternative options

1. The revisions to the constitution of SACRE have been prompted by changes to the constitution of Herefordshire Council and the need to update the details of the clerk to SACRE. No alternative options are proposed.

Key considerations

2. A new constitution was introduced at Herefordshire Council on 19 May 2017. In a change to arrangements for the appointment of the chair of SACRE, in future this will not be an appointment made by Herefordshire Council. The chairman of SACRE will be elected by SACRE members.
3. In addition, elements of the constitution requires updating to correct the title of the officer who is the clerk to SACRE. The changes to the arrangement for the appointment of the chair together with the updated detail of the clerk to SACRE have been highlighted in **bold italics** in the revised constitution attached at the appendix.

Community impact

4. The provision of Religious Education and collective worship seeks to increase understanding and tolerance of all religions in local communities, supporting achievement of the council's corporate plan priority to keep children and young people safe and give them a great start in life.
5. Ensuring that governing documents such as the SACRE constitution are clear, effective and up to date supports the council to uphold the principles in its adopted code of corporate governance.

Equality duty

6. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
7. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) required the council to consider how it can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that 'due regard' is paid during decision making concerning the design of policies and the delivery of services. The provision of religious education seeks to contribute positively to the specific duty by increasing the understanding and tolerance of all religions in local communities. SACRE contributes to this duty by advising the LA on its arrangements for religious education.

Resource implications

8. There are no resource implications involved in the production and consideration of this report.

Legal implications

9. Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires The Herefordshire LEA to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship.
10. The constitution of SACRE sets out its functions, membership and rules of procedure.

Risk management

11. During the production of this report there has been an assessment of the likely risk management implications. It is not considered that risk of any significance arises from the production or contents of this report.

Consultees

12. None

Appendices

Appendix - SACRE constitution

Background papers

None identified.